CONCORDIA COMMUNIQUÉ
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8 (514) 879-8497

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John Cage performs
at Concordia January 16

Montreal, Quebec, January 5, 1979 -- John Cage, avant-garde American composer of experimental music, will perform an original work at Concordia, Tuesday, January 16.

Cage's performance at Concordia is being sponsored by the Division of Visual Arts and the University Committee on Lectures and Events. The public is invited, and admission is free.

Cage's music cannot be related to everyday musical standards. He remains one of the most controversial composers of our time.

From his early studies with composers Edgar Varèse and Karlheinz Stockhausen, Cage developed a keen interest in innovation, using a non-thematic, non-harmonic 12-tone technique, reducing themes to fragments, and punctuating sounds with silences.

His experiments with the "prepared piano" -- creating new sounds by stuffing objects such as nuts and bolts between the piano strings -- earned him the reputation of an eccentric but led to a Guggenheim Fellowship for creative work in music in 1949.

In such works as Imaginary Landscape No. 4 he became interested in the potential of noisemakers as the source of new sounds. His compositions incorporate the sound of dropping cigarette ashes and scraping microphones.

Cage's aesthetics were also largely influenced by I Ching, the Chinese book of chance. With the aid of Chinese dice, he arrived at a system for arranging the materials and means of composition. He has since combined this "chance music" with electronics to extend traditional musical boundaries.

Cage has held a number of teaching posts since the 1930s at various American colleges. He has also served as music director of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company.

His major works include audio-visual and chamber music, concrete, orchestral and vocal music.

He has written on art and music for a number of American music journals and newspapers and has published a two-volume series of essays and lectures on music.

Cage's performance is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. in Room H110 of the Hall Building on Concordia's Sir George campus, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West.